

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Daniel K. Burgin et al. : Paper No:
Serial No. 09/944,836 : Group Art Unit: 2179
Filed: August 31, 2001 : Examiner: Mylihn T. Tran
For: System and Method for Automated End User Support

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office communication, dated June 5, 2006, relating to the above patent application, please consider the following response.

In the above-mentioned Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has asked that the Applicant make an election between the following two groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-25, and 27-28 drawn to a method of operating a browser, classified in class 715, subclass 738;
- II. Claims 30 and 32-39, drawn to a system for providing end user support, classified in class 715, subclass 705.

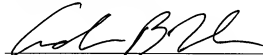
In response to this restriction requirement, applicants accept the claims of Group I with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the search required to examine each group of claims would be largely the same for Groups I and II. This overlap is suggested by the fact that each resides within the same class 715. Moreover, comparison of specific claims indicate a degree of

commonality. For example, independent claim 13 of Group I and dependent claim 33 from Group II both recite an annotation server. MPEP § 803 states that even if two inventions are independent or distinct, they should be examined together if doing so would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Since the two claim groups overlap and are classified within the same class, considering all claims together would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn and all claims currently pending in this application should be considered together.

In the event that the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants elect the claims of Group I (claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-25, and 27-28) for prosecution in this application, while maintaining the right to prosecute the remaining claims in an appropriately filed divisional application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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The undersigned certifies that this correspondence was deposited with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via electronic filing, on this 15th day of June, 2006.

